

REMARKS

The Office Action dated May 7, 2003, has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the claims, and the following remarks, are submitted as a full and complete response thereto. Claims 3 and 9 have been amended, and claim 11 has been added. Applicants submit that the amendments made herein are fully supported in the specification and the drawings as originally filed, and therefore no new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 3, 9, and 11 are pending in the present application and are respectfully submitted for consideration.

Claims 3 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over Takahashi et al. in view of Eldridge et al. The Office Action takes the position that the combination of Takahashi and Eldridge teach or suggest all the features recited in claims 3 and 9. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Claim 3 is directed to a point storing member comprising point storing means for storing points corresponding to moneys, and having data holding portions equal in number to the points for holding write data. A read means reads out the points stored in the point storing means in accordance with an externally applied read instruction. A first cryptogram storing portion stores a first cryptogram, set by a first person concerned with manufacturing of the point storing member. A second cryptogram storing portion stores a second cryptogram set by a second person different from the first person and concerned with use of the point storing member. A point changing means allows the changing of each of the data holding portions in the point storing means between a first state and a second state in accordance with an externally applied point changing instruction. A cryptogram collating means collates the first and second cryptograms for generating a third cryptogram.

Determining means for determining whether the changing means should be allowed to change the points or not, based on the third cryptogram.

Claim 9 is directed to a point storing member comprising a storing means, a first secret data area, a second secret data area, changing means, an input means, cryptogram collating means and a comparing means. The storing means stores points and the first secret data area stores a first cryptogram that is setable by a first person concerned with manufacturing of the point storing member. The first cryptogram is characterized by the secret data of the first person. The second secret data area stores a second cryptogram that is setable by a second person different from the first person and concerned with use of the point storing member. The second cryptogram is characterized by the secret data of the second person. A changing means is used to change the points stored in the storing means. The input means receives data to be verified. The cryptogram collating means collates the first and second cryptogram for generating a third cryptogram. The cryptogram collating means includes a comparing means for comparing the data to be verified and received via the input means with the third cryptogram. It is determined whether the changing means should increase the points or not, based on a result of the comparison by the comparing means.

Takahashi is directed to a memory card that can be used as a reusable prepaid card. Takahashi discloses a terminal device that supplies a command that is input into a command decoder 20. The command decoder 20 then decodes the command. However, Takahashi fails to teach or suggest a cryptogram collating means for collating the first and second cryptograms for generating a third cryptogram. In other words, Takahashi fails to teach or suggest the feature of a third cryptogram. Thus, Takahashi does not teach or

suggest comparing the data and determining whether to increase the points based on the output of the cryptogram collating means, namely, the third cryptogram, as recited in the claimed invention. Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that Eldridge fails to cure the deficiencies of Takahashi.

Eldridge is directed to method of updating the password status in a client/server environment. The Office Action takes the position that Eldridge discloses a determining means 708 and 712 that bases change on an internal password. However, Eldridge fails to teach or suggest the feature of a cryptogram collating means for collating the first and second cryptograms for generating a third cryptogram. Thus, Eldridge does not cure the deficiencies of Takahashi. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Takahashi and Eldridge neither teach nor suggest all the features recited in claims 3 and 9. Accordingly, Applicants request the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 3 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claim 11 is added. Claim 11 is dependent upon claim 3. Therefore, for at least the reasons mentioned above, it is submitted that claim 11 recites subject matter that is neither taught nor suggested by the applied reference. Accordingly, Applicants request the favorable consideration of claim 11.

In view of the above amendments and distinctions, withdrawal of the rejections to claims 3 and 9 is respectfully requested. Claims 3 and 9 are amended. Claim 11 is added. No new matter is presented. Therefore, Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance with claims 3, 9 and 11 contained therein.

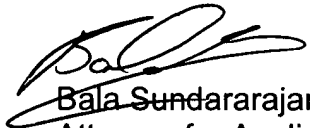
Should the Examiner believe the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number

listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The Commissioner is authorized to charge payment for any additional fees which may be required with respect to this paper to Counsel's Deposit Account 01-2300.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure: Petition for Extension of Time